THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) We had recommended to the Pakistan High Commission in Delhi, the visa applications of 7798, 7405, 6975 and 2567 pilgrims during the years 1992, 1993, 1994 and 1995. According to available information approximately 7190, 5760, 5370 and 1970 Indian pilgrims visited Pakistan in the years 1992, 1993, 1994 and 1995 respectively.

The exact number of visa requests which were rejected by the Pakistan High Commissionis not available.

During the years 1992, 1993, 1994 and 1995 aproximate number of Pakistani pilgrims who visited India has been 380, 80, 420, and 580 respectively.

(c) and (d) Pakistan, regrettably, has adopted a restrictive visa regime even for those religious jathas that visit Pakistan as part of the Indo-pak Protocol on Religious Shrines, 1974.

Government have urged Pakistan to fulfill its commitments under the Indo-Pak Protocol on Religious Shrines, 1974 and have also specifically proposed that the sub-commission IV of the Indo-Pak Joint Commission, which deals with visa-related matters be re-convened.

Indo-Thailand joint Business Council Meeting

7111. SMT. BASANTI SARMA:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERMANL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the meeting of the indo-Thailand Joint Business Council was held recently;

(b) if so, what are the deliberations which took place in this meeting;

(c) what has been the outcome of this meeting; and

(d) what steps have been taken to follow up the points agreed to in the meeting?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir. The India-Thailand Joint Business Council Meeting was held on July 14, 1984 in Bangkok.

(b) During the meeting, the two sides discussed the need for and prospects of expanding trade and economic relations between the two countries. The state of the economy, including the investment environment in both countries was also discussed.

(c) As a result of the meeting, there has been a better understanding of the potential for trade expansion and the concrete steps to be taken in this regard.

(d) As part of follow-up action, the JBC organised a meeting between the visiting Thai Deputy Foreign Minister and Indian industry, in November, 1994.

Anomalies in the Pay-scales of employees of Sapru House Library

7112. DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Sapru House Library, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi, is an autonomous body and is running under the Ministry of Exptrnal Affairs;

(b) if so, the number of employees working in the library for the last five years and how many employees have been recruited during 1994-95, and 1995-96, category-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that the employees of the said library have submitted representations to Government regarding anomalies in their pay-scales and for implementing the Fourth Pay Commission's report, payment of D.A., A.D.A. due from 1st October, 1983, till date, and payment of Interim Relief due from 1st June, 1983 and 1st March, 1985; and

(d) if so, the reasons for non-implementation of Pay Commission's report and non-payment of D.A., A.D.A. to the employees and by when appropriate action would be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) The Sapru House Library